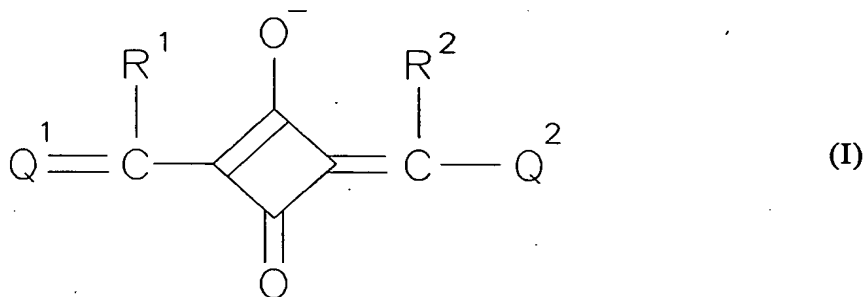


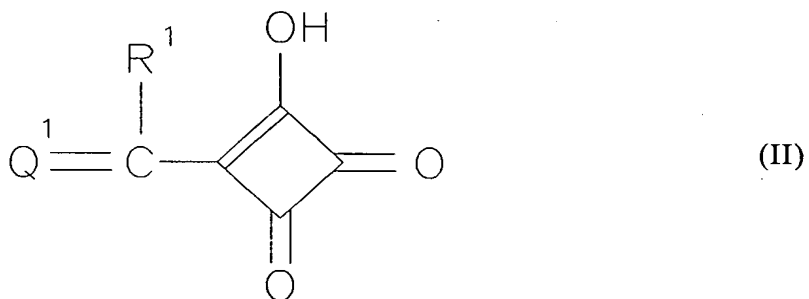
SQUARYLIUM COMPOUNDS, AND PROCESSES AND INTERMEDIATES FOR THE SYNTHESIS OF THESE COMPOUNDS

Abstract of the Disclosure

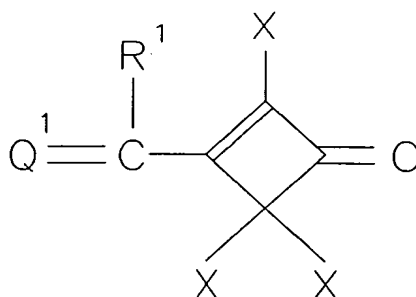
Squarylium compounds of the formula:



5 wherein Q¹ and Q² are each independently a pyrylium, thiopyrylium, selenopyrylium, benzpyrylium, benzthiopyrylium or benzselenopyrylium nucleus, and R¹ and R² are each independently an aliphatic or cycloaliphatic group, can be prepared by reacting a squaric acid derivative of the formula:



10 with a compound of the formula Q²CH₂R² in the presence of a base. The derivatives of Formula II may be prepared by condensing a 2,3,4,4-tetrahalocyclobut-2-en-1-one with a compound of the formula Q¹CH₂R¹ in the presence of a base to produce a compound of the formula:



(III)

wherein Q^1 and R^1 are as defined above, and X represents chlorine or bromine, and hydrolyzing the compound of Formula III. Alternatively, the derivatives of Formula II may be prepared by reacting a diester, monoacid chloride monoester or diacid chloride of squaric acid with a compound of the formula $Q^1CH_2R^1$ in the presence of a base, followed by hydrolysis of the resultant monoacid chloride or monoester derivative of the compound of Formula II to the parent compound.